Engineers:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force	Coast Guard
2004	72	42	54	03
2005	95	70	52	

The main reasons for the premature retirement/resignation are the supersession and compassionate circumstances.

Sophisticated Equipments to Defence Forces

†2768. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists in J and K are having Palm top information system;

(b) the reasons for not providing sophisticated information equipments so far to the Indian security agencies; and

(c) by when such equipments would be provided to defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been two occasions in 2006 when Palm Tops have been recovered from infiltrating terrorists groups.

(b) and (c) The Central para military/State Police/defence forces fighting terrorism in J and K are suitably equipped. Equipping the forces to effectively fight terrorism is an ongoing and continuous process, which takes into account the changes in tactics and weapon/equipment profile of the terrorists.

Delay in BRO projects

2769. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE.be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge backlog from one of the projects undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation on account of delay ranging from one to 13 years in their completion causing cost over-runs;

(b) whether it would take 10 to 13 years to clear the backlog of road works and more than 20 years to clear the backlog of bridge works, going by the pace of execution over the last five years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether approval for work plan is accorded very late every year by the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) and if so, whether Government would set a definite time-frame for preparation and approval of annual work plans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) takes up execution of project departmentally, unlike other Organisations who get the work executed through contract. All efforts are made to complete the projects as per schedule and priorities indicated by user agency. However some times projects are not completed as scheduled due to various constraints like law and order problem, natural calamities, delay in availability of some resources specially in far flung areas and shortage of manpower etc. The works plan is framed as per the operational/strategic requirements in consultation with all concerned. The progress of works is continued as per works plan for which approvals are conveyed by midyear with the concurrence of army authorities and associate finance. To enable BRO to complete the entrusted roadwork (including bridges) within a definite time frame, Government have taken up actions to augment the capability of BRO in terms of manpower and equipment etc.

Defence cooperation with Malaysia

2770. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were discussions between India and Malaysia on Defence cooperation recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with the Malaysian Defence Minister during his recent visit to India; and

(c) what is the military-to-military cooperation at present between India and Malaysia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Malaysia H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak visited India from 6th to 12th June 2006 at the invitation of Raksha Mantri. During the visit, he held discussions with Raksha Mantri on bilateral defence issues of mutual interest.